



San Diego City Attorney Michael J. Aguirre

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY TO INVESTIGATE DISPUTE BETWEEN TWO COMMUNITY GROUPS IN LA JOLLA

NEIGHBORHOOD LAWSUITS AGAINST COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUPS A CITYWIDE CONCERN

San Diego, CA: City Attorney Mike Aguirre today announced that his office will conduct an investigation into allegations that the La Jolla Community Planning Association, Inc. (LJCPA) is operating in violation of its bylaws. On May 18, 2006 a lawsuit was filed against the LJCPA by the La Jollans for Clean Government, Inc. (LJCG) claiming the LJCPA manipulates its election and membership procedures in order to control the outcome of critical votes on development projects in La Jolla.

In a response sent today to Timothy Golba, president of the LJCPA, City Attorney Aguirre declined to offer a defense or indemnification of the LJCPA until after the investigation by the City Attorney's Office is completed.

"The lawsuit against the LJCPA is an anomaly as it is a struggle for the heart and soul of a community planning organization, not the typical challenge by a developer contesting a planning group's decision on a particular project," remarked Aguirre.

According to the complaint, La Jollans for Clean Government, Inc. is a non-profit corporation organized to investigate and expose corruption and conflicts of interests in local government sponsored boards and committees in the community of La Jolla.

One contention of the complaint concerns violations of Article VI of the LJCPA by-laws which requires trustees having a direct economic interest in any project that comes before the Board to disclose that interest and not participate in the project discussion or vote. Specifically, the complaint alleges that "several architects who are voting trustees of the LJCPA have proposed projects within the boundaries of the LJCPA and will receive direct economic benefits if and when certain proposed changes to the La Jolla Planned District Ordinance are approved."

Council President Scott Peters is recommending that the City pay up to \$250,000 to hire outside counsel to defend the LJCPA and has placed the matter on next Tuesday's city council docket as a supplemental item.

The City Attorney prefers that, at this time, the City Council remain neutral and not support the interests of one community group over another.

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